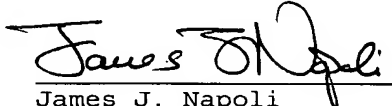




1713

PATENT--NO FEE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:) I hereby certify that this
MARKUS SCHMID ET AL.) paper is being deposited
Serial No.: 10/568,208) with the United States
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Examiner: Unassigned) Mail Stop Amendment
) Commissioner for Patents
) P.O. Box 1450
) Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
)
) Dated: August 9, 2006
)
) 
) James J. Napoli
) Registration No. 32,361
) Attorney for Applicants

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants hereby bring to the examiner's attention patent documents that may be material to the examination of the above-identified application. Therefore, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, applicants enclose a completed Form PTO-1449 listing the possibly pertinent patent documents and a copy of each non-U.S. patent document.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted more than three months after the filing date of the above-identified application, and, to applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office

Action on the merits. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office.

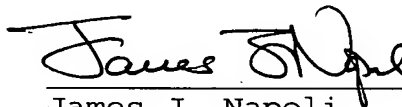
The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed herewith.

We also enclose a copy of a International Search Report for the convenience of the examiner. In addition, U.S. Patent No. 6,150,479 corresponds to German-language EP 0 816 383.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

By



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